Overview of the Interdisciplinary NIH Roadmap Initiative



NIH Roadmap



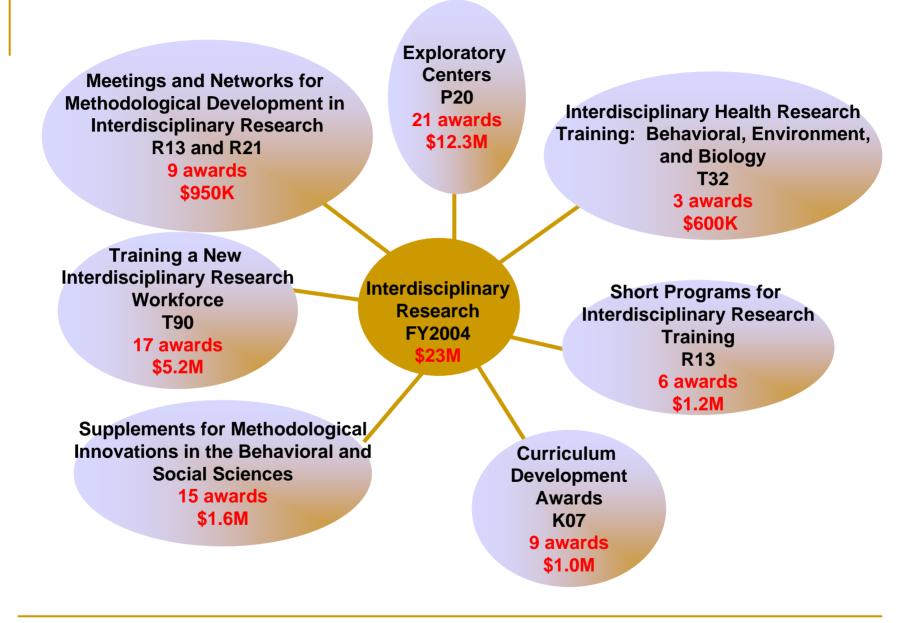


Interdisciplinary Research

- Why bother?
- What is it?
- Distinction between interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.

Interdisciplinary Roadmap Programs

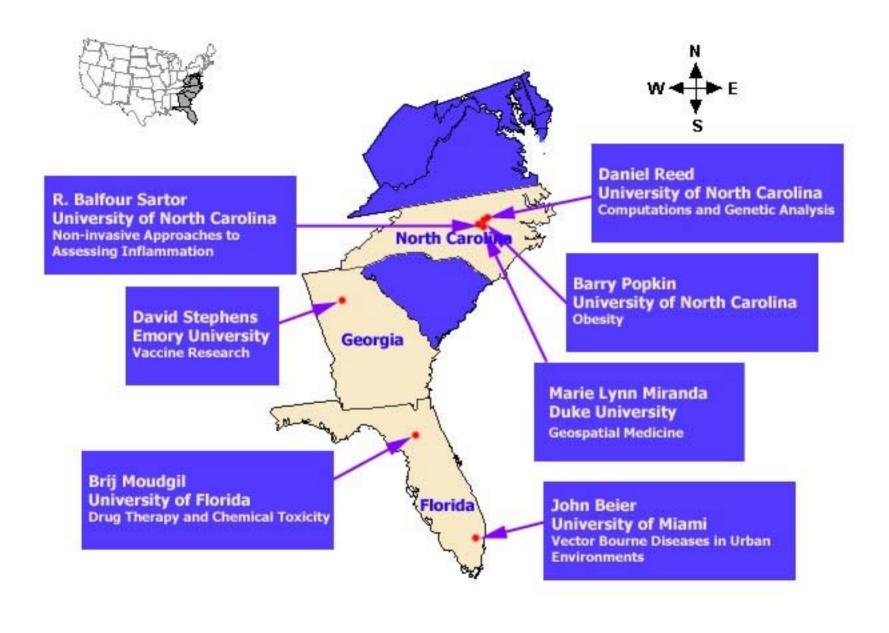
- Training of new scientists, including curriculum development
- Creation of specialized interdisciplinary consortia
- Supplements to existing awards to add an interdisciplinary component
- Support for forward looking conferences to catalyze collaboration between disciplines



Exploratory Centers



- This RFA struck a nerve in the community.
- 21 centers were funded in a wide range of areas
 - both scientifically and geographically



Exploratory Centers – Next Steps

- The main purpose behind the Exploratory Centers was to create groups of investigators from multiple disciplines who share a common language and are focused on a biomedical research problem.
- These awards were only the first step in creating full, large Interdisciplinary Research Consortia.

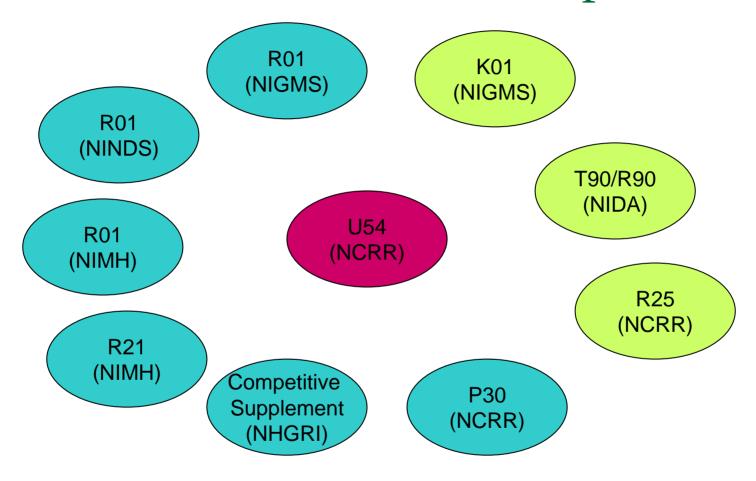
Key Review Criteria for the Pre-Applications

- Are you proposing an interdisciplinary approach?
- Have you identified an important biomedically relevant problem?
- Have you made a compelling argument why an interdisciplinary approach will work when disciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches have failed?
- Do you have a plan to maintain the focus and coordination of the interdisciplinary team?

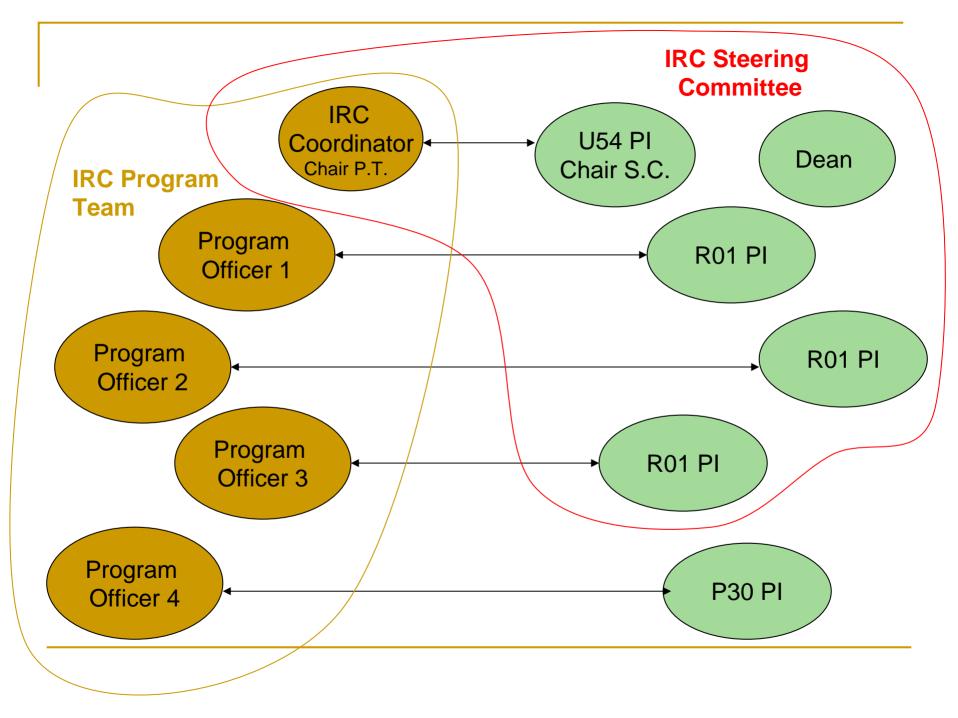
Full Applications

- Full applications are due on December 19, 2006.
- Roughly 8 consortia will be funded in September, 2007.
- Awards will be roughly \$3M per year direct costs for five years.
- A group of tethered awards will be made rather than a single award to give appropriate credit to members of the interdisicplinary team. That makes this program distinctly different from other large NIH inter or trans disciplinary centers.

A Consortium with All Components



The average proposed consortium has 10 components.



Involvement in the Consortia

- We are very interested in talking to people who would like to study the methods used by these interdisciplinary consortia and their performance.
- If you have ideas about conducting such a study, please let me know
- Greg Farber, NCRR/NIH, 301-435-0778, farberg@mail.nih.gov